



A COMMUNICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF

# The City of Buffalo Common Council

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Darius G. Pridgen, President | Christopher P. Scanlon, President Pro Tempore | David A. Rivera, Majority Leader

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Scanlon Files Critical Resolutions in Response to Deadly Blizzard to Ensure Our Front Line Workers are Properly Equipped to Serve our Residents

**Buffalo, N.Y.** - In the aftermath of the recent deadly blizzard that hit the City of Buffalo and the WNY region, in conjunction with the record setting November snow storm that dropped over 6 feet of snow in the Southern portion of the city, South District Council Member Christopher P. Scanlon is filing a number of new resolutions that specifically call for:

- **Using American Rescue Plan Funds to Purchase Necessary Equipment for the Departments of Public Works, Fire, and Police**
- **Amending the Department of Public Works, Parks, & Streets Snow Removal Plan to Include Larger Snowfall and Blizzards**
- **Direct Corporation Counsel to Opine on Amending the Capital Budget in Light of Federal Disaster Declaration**
- **Request Detailed Equipment Inventory List from the Department of Public Works' Streets & Sanitation Division, the Buffalo Fire Department, and the Buffalo Police Department**

These resolutions are to ensure that the City of Buffalo Department of Public Works, Fire and Police have the proper equipment to reach residents and provide services that will have a major impact on areas of the city that are underserved during a state of emergency.

“As a city, we have to provide our front-line workers with the proper equipment to reach our residents during extreme weather. People cannot go without food, medication, and power for days. We have the men and women capable of providing these services, we just have to provide them the tools necessary to be successful,” said South District Council Member Christopher P. Scanlon.

Details of the resolutions can be found below:



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- **Use American Rescue Plan Funds to Purchase Necessary Equipment for the Departments of Public Works, Fire, and Police** - Calls on the Department of Administration and Finance amend the plan for American Rescue Plan spending to include the aforementioned equipment for the Departments of Public Works, Fire, and Police. Additionally, it states that the Buffalo Common Council will not approve any further spending of ARP funds after February 2, 2023 until said equipment purchases are made.
- **Amend the Department of Public Works, Parks, & Streets Snow Removal Plan to Include Larger Snow Fall and Blizzards** - In less than six weeks, Buffalo has experienced two record setting snowstorms, the Buffalo Common Council directs the Department of Public Works to immediately amend its Snow Removal Plan to include heavy snowfall (11-36 inches) and blizzards; and requests the amended snow plan by January 24, 2023.
- **Direct Corporation Counsel to Opine on Amending the Capital Budget in Light of Federal Disaster Declaration** - The resolution directs City of Buffalo Corporation Counsel to opine on the Common Council's authority to amend the Capital Budget after it has been adopted, due to the severity of the circumstances. *Scanlon is also requesting to redirect the \$500,000 in South District specific capital improvements to be used to purchase two snowplows.*
- **Request Detailed Equipment Inventory List from the Department of Public Works' Streets & Sanitation Division, the Buffalo Fire Department, and the Buffalo Police Department** - This resolution requests a detailed list from the Departments of Public Works, Fire, and Police to be filed for the January 24, 2023 Council meeting that includes:
  1. A full list of all the equipment assigned to each department
  2. The list of all equipment broken into three categories: operational, currently being serviced, out of service
  3. Status of the current inventory of service parts
  4. The number of mechanics currently employed by each department and how often they work

In addition to the filing of these resolutions, Scanlon also sent a letter to the Commissioners of the Buffalo Police Department, Joseph Gramaglia, and Fire Department, William Renaldo, with serious concerns about the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) being experienced by City of Buffalo police officers, firefighters, and dispatchers. Scanlon adds that these front line workers worked for days without sleep and little to no food and worked through what they are describing as the "worst nights of their careers."

Scanlon asked the commissioners to get counselors into the stations and houses as soon as possible, and is asking for more paid time off for members who worked Friday – Sunday (or longer) during the storm, adding that they should not be back at work citing safety concerns for them, their colleagues, and/or members of public.

These resolutions will be filed with the City of Buffalo Clerk's Office and will be on the agenda for the Buffalo Common Council meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

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